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California GARDEN

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DECEMBER, 1966 - JANUARY, 1967

VOL. 57, NO.



FLORAL EVENTS

DECEMBER, 1966 — JANUARY, 1967

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION PROGRAMS

Third Tuesday, 8 p.m. Floral Building, Balboa Park

Chairman — Captain Charles E. A. Spiegel

No Regular Meeting in December because of the Holidays.

Have a Merry Christmas and be ready for a stimulating Year Ahead.

Regular Meeting, January 17, 1967

Mr. William H. Craig will discuss "Garden Pests and Their Control." If you have in your garden any pest problems, bring them in at this meeting as Mr. Craig is Instructor of Entomology at Southwestern College.

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION CLASSES, FLORAL BUILDING, BALBOA PARK

For information, call Mrs. Roland Hoyt, Chairman, 296-2757

1. Flower Arrangement Demonstration Classes will meet on December 19, 1966 instead of the usual time because of special holiday activities.

FLOWER SHOWS

DECEMBER

3-4 CHRISTMAS SHOW Theme: "Greetings! It's Christmas!"

La Mesa Womens' Club House

LA MESA GARDEN CLUB

10 CAMELLIA SHOW — *Early Gibbed Blooms*

L.A. State and County Arboretum, Arcadia

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CAMELLIA SOCIETIES

BUS TOURS

December 3rd & December 6th. Floral Association BUS TOURS to Descanso Gardens, La Canada. Leave 8:30 a.m. Return around 6:30 p.m. Parking lot behind the Organ Pavilion, Balboa Park. Tickets \$5.50. These tours will replace the Christmas Lights Tours, formerly sponsored by the Floral Association.

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CALIFORNIA GARDEN

December, 1966 - January, 1967

Vol. 57

No. 6

Among our Contributors

Lloyd T. Lowrey has the impressive title Park Superintendent, Parks Division, Public Works Department, City of San Diego. He seizes every opportunity to make our city more conscious of adding to its beauty by increasing tree plantings and our knowledge of trees.

Mrs. Esther W. Nesbin, Palomar College Librarian, and President for the first three years of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society also presents illustrated lectures on wildflowers of San Diego county and cacti and succulents. She has a ranch, kept in its natural state where 100 or more varieties of wildflowers grow in the spring. She is a Charter member of the Quail Gardens Foundation and she also teaches Flower Arrangement in the Palomar College Evening Division.

Donald A. Briggs is said to own more strelitzias than anyone else in the world, after setting out on his gladiolus acreage, years ago, 25,000 young plants obtained from Manfred Meyberg. Associated with Elmer and Clinton Pedley, also giants of the strelitzia craze, they incorporated under the name California Birds, Inc. and introduced and shipped millions of birds of paradise to the Eastern Florists' market, under the management of Ralph C. Dewey who has contributed much to the popularization of these exotic flowers.

Ann Burnett, former Virginian knew Mount Vernon and Monticello as well as Williamsburg. Daughter of a minister and one of Virginia's outstanding poets, she became interested in formal gardening. She has written on biblical gardening and on herbs and is now growing bonsais and cymbidiums. Her son at 11 or 12 was the youngest contributor to publish in CALIFORNIA GARDEN and he is now in San Francisco taking a doctorate in economics and history in order to teach.

THE COVER

Mother Nature grows and decorates a Christmas Tree in Cuyamaca State Park. Young cone of Sugar Pine is tinselled with dripping sugar water.

Photo by Mackintosh

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CALIFORNIA GARDEN

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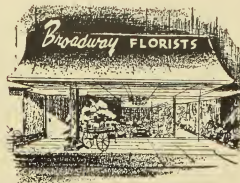
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A Book In The Hand

by Alice Mary Greer

Editor's Note: This book may be obtained from Honingklip Nurseries (W. J. & E. R. Middelman, c/o "Barosma" Bambeck Ave., Newlands Cape, South Africa) who have sent a much appreciated review copy because of the great interest in Proteas in this area.

This book can only be obtained locally through Mr. J. Howard Asper, Route 4, Box 266, Escondido, Calif., at a cost of about \$8.50. Also Proteas will be available to the interested gardener in March of next year through this nurseryman, the only commercial grower of Proteas.

Proteas for Pleasure—How to grow and identify them: Sima Eliovson; Howard Timmins, Cape Town, 1965. Hard cover, 1965; 228 pages, R5.75.

The mysterious and fascinating world of the Proteas is brought to a point of appreciation for the gardener by this long-needed book. In it, Mrs. Eliovson explains the history, distribution, propagation and care of the Protea, Leucospermum, Leucadendron, and other genera in the Proteaceae. Many species are listed as to their suitability in lime soils and against frost. Also, listings are made of the different sizes of the plants, the variety of flower colors, the plants flowering in the various seasons, and the unusual leaf shapes of different plants. Three maps are included in the book: two showing the locations in southern Africa noted in the book and one giving a plan for the arrangement of a garden of proteaceous plants.

The second part of the book is devoted to expert descriptions and discussions of many individual species, each of which is accompanied by either a color or black and white photos of the flower of the plant in

discussion. Of the eighty photos in the book, thirty-four are in vivid color.

This book is a must for every serious gardener; not only for its wealth of information and pictures concerning Proteas, but for its value as a text on the entire Protea family.

R. Mitchel Beauchamp,
Guest reviewer

Trees of the West: Identified at a Glance: Matilda Rogers. Photographs by Wynne Hammer; Ward Richie Press, 1966; 146 pages; Paper bound: \$1.95.

The western trees under consideration are introduced as though we were taking a tree walk where we meet fifty or more tree friends—some new—some old favorites. Writes Matilda Rogers: "Because trees are friends and give a lifetime of real pleasure, tree identification is a popular hobby. I can think of no better hobby—casual or serious—for young or old. It adds zest to living. It keeps one out of doors; it costs nothing. Best of all, it creates a fascinating game of absorbing adventure every time one takes a stroll alone or in groups. Always one can find something that is new or different." I agree with her as I am sure our "tree man," C. I. Jerabek, does also.

The text gives a good, non-technical description of a class, for instance, palms or eucalyptus, and then breaks that class up into its specific varieties. At times the reader might wish for a more scientific classification than that which is used, and for the use of technical terms in the text. The author purposely employs the "common" names, of the most importance to most people, since she writes primarily for the layman, not for the erudite.

The photography of the late Wynne Hammer is outstanding and professionally executed. It truly bears the

hallmark of the master-hand. Each photograph was done when the tree was at its prime and stresses those particular features that most help to distinguish the tree under consideration, whether it be the size or shape, the bark or leaf or flower. So, you see, the reader or the viewer of this little book cannot possibly miss.

Matilda Rogers writes with that succinct, light and impressionistic touch that ever sparks the mind of the young. Her vivid word pictures and her method of approach in presenting her descriptions are beautifully refreshing and remind sharply of our late Kate Sessions, "K.O.S." Once told, never forgotten. This was the result of all of K.O.S. teaching.

Together Rogers and Hammer have certainly given us a splendid introduction to western trees, known only by sight to many. A very graphic and most useful handbook that nature students, visitors and natives alike will enjoy.

So fascinated was I by this little book that I could not put it down until in one sitting—about two hours' time—I had read every word in it and steeped myself in the beauty of its superb plates, 15 colored, 65 black and white.

Home and Garden Calendar, 1967: Hearthsides Press; \$1.50.

1967 Rose Calendar: Hearthsides Press; \$1.50.

Here are two calendars that should not be overlooked by anyone. They are ideal for Christmas gifts or for your personal use. Good, stiff paper, flexible binding, a well-done illustration accompanied by explanatory script for every week of the entire year; on the opposite page of each illustration is the calendar for the week, with one by five inch spaces for writing notes or recording engagements, day by day, morning, afternoon and evening and with extra pages for notes in the back.

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CACTUS AND SUCCULENT GARDEN AT PALOMAR COLLEGE CAMPUS, SAN MARCOS

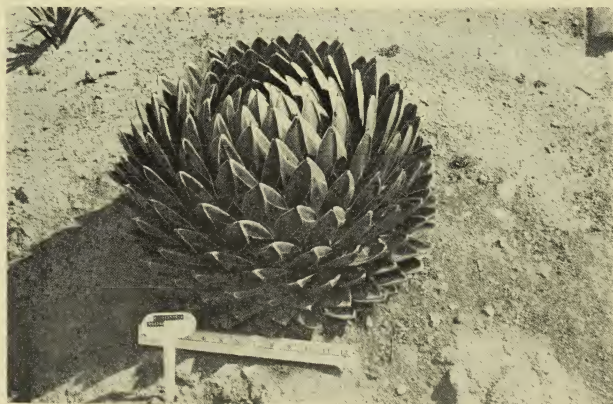
by Esther W. Nesbin

ONE OF the goals of the Palomar Cactus and Succulent Society from its inception was to sponsor a Cactus and Succulent Garden. As Palomar College had provided the meeting place for the Society since 1957, the campus was the logical place to establish the garden. Early years were taken up with building the organization, membership and treasury of the Society, but by March, 1963 a site had been chosen by the members and approved by the college, and a water line and rabbit fence had been installed. The site chosen was a rocky outcropping of granite boulders about seventy-five feet wide by two hundred and twenty-five feet long, on the southeast corner of the campus facing Mission Road where it could be seen by passersby on the highway.

Much credit is due to the early presidents, Mr. G. W. Graves of Imperial Beach and Mrs. Julia Von Preisig of Vista for keeping the idea on the agenda during the formative years of the society. A "College Planting Committee" as it was then called, consisting of Mrs. Helen Hegyi, Mr. Robert Diehl, Mr. Alan B. Chamber-

lain, and Mrs. Esther W. Nesbin, Chairman, presented a scaled plan and by January of 1964, the first work party removed weeds and prepared the paths. Decomposed granite and fertilizer were hauled in and the soil

was built up in readiness for the first planting. Redwood strips outlined the paths which were covered with gray crushed rock. The Garden is laid out in areas devoted to the various species of cacti and other succulents. As one



Agave victoriae-reginae

Photo by Eugene Stevens

enters from the access road, to the right and left are the Agaves, natives of America. Here are specimens of *Agave americana*, *A. angustifolia* var. *marginata*, *A. attenuata*, *A. caribario-donta*, *A. decipiens*, *A. desertii*, *A. filifera*, *A. lophantha univata*, *A. utahensis*, *A. victoriae-reginae*, among many others. Continuing on the path to the right is the section devoted to Aloes, natives of Africa, Madagascar and the Atlantic islands, members of the Lily family, Liliaceae. Among the many represented are *Aloe arborescens*, *A. aristata*, *A. brevifolia*, *A. ferox*, *A. humilis*, *A. variegata*, *A. marlothii*, and *A. zeyhrina*. Adjoining this area at the far end of the garden is a large section devoted to Opuntias, more native Americans. Inasmuch as the Opuntias constitute the largest cactaceae genus and are the most widely distributed, they comprise the largest area in the garden. Returning via the left hand path is a large area devoted to various types of succulents: Cotyledon, Crassula, Gasteria, Haworthia, Kalanchoe, and Mesembryanthemum. Islands in the center provide areas for the Cereus, the Columnar cacti, Mamillarias and Euphorbias.

Two specimens of *Carnegiea gigantea* or Giant Cactus or Saguaro are an outstanding point of interest in the garden. One is 36 inches tall and the other 40 inches. Authorities state that they grow six inches in ten years.

Mr. Chamberlain was named Chairman of the committee in May, 1964 and it has been under his direction that the garden has developed to its present state. Many members have devoted hundreds of work hours on the garden. One of the early workers and most faithful has been Mr.

Charles F. Harbison, Curator of Entomology at the San Diego Museum of Natural History, who has come up from San Diego on the bus once a month and spent all day Saturday and Sunday working in the garden. Others who have given generously of their time have been Mrs. Mildred Gregory, Mr. and Mrs. Eric Gunnarson, Mr. H. B. Krebs, Mrs. Dorothy Miller, Mr. Gilbert Voss, Mrs. Sue Bachrach, Mr. Charles L. Benbow, Dr. Elmer Petersen, and Mrs. Faith Donlan.

Plants have come from many sources. The garden is most indebted to Mr. Robert Diehl of Vista for his many contributions of South American cacti and to Mr. Robert Taylor of El Cajon for many from Baja California and Mexico. Mr. Harbison has also donated many specimens from Guadeloupe Island and Lower California. Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Holtzer of the Imperial Valley Cactus and Succulent Society donated a huge clump of *Echinocactus polycephalus* and Mr. Davis Newman of the Howard Gates Memorial Cactus Society at Riverside has donated plants. A huge *Dracena draco* donated by Mrs. Alice Morse dominates one of the areas. Mr. Mitchel Beauchamp, San Diego State College botany major, has been instrumental in obtaining many of the cacti native to San Diego County. Among these are *Bergerocactus emoryi*, the Coast button cactus; *Ferocactus viridescens*, or green hedgehog cactus; *Ferocactus acanthoides*, or Desert barrel cactus; *Echinocereus engelmannii* or Hedgehog cactus; *Mammillaria dioica*, or Fishhook cactus; *Opuntia prolifera*, or Coast cholla; *Opuntia littoralis*, or Coast prickly pear; *Opuntia occidentalis*, or Common prickly

pear; and *Opuntia basilaris*, or Beaver tail cactus.

Included among the many who have donated plants have been Mrs. Julia Von Preissig of Vista, Mrs. Anna Spear of San Diego, Mrs. Dorothy Graves of Imperial Beach, Mr. and Mrs. John B. Stanton of Vista, Mr. Fred A. Servatius of Cardiff, and Mrs. Lorraine Shafer of Carlsbad.

Future plans for the garden include completing the labelling of all specimens with their scientific names, erection of a suitable name sign; and further expansion of the garden up the hillside.

Plan to visit the garden on your next trip to northern San Diego County. Take the San Marcos or Encinitas off-ramp if you are heading West or the Rancho Santa Fe off-ramp if you are heading East off Freeway 78. The Society meets on the third Saturday of the month at 1:00 p.m. in Room F-22. Visitors are welcome. The Cactus and Succulent Garden is open at all times during the day. Just step over the rabbit fence and you're in.

Buena Vista Lagoon State Park. Yes!

Congratulations to us all! Word has just come in that the Buena Vista Lagoon State Park is going to be a reality. Of the 9 projects from this area, only the Buena Vista Lagoon and Torrey Pines were adopted, according to Dick Thompson of the State Park Commission Information Office.

Dave Rorick, Jr., co-chairman of the Buena Vista Lagoon Citizens' Committee, presented the proposal which stressed the fresh water natural bird sanctuary. The donation to the state of 50 per cent of the property by interested local advocates, represented a tremendous saving in cost of land acquisition. It was further estimated that the park would have 14.6 million people passing by annually on Interstate 5.

The fact that 60 per cent of the state's population had only 17 per cent of the state's parks was a telling figure. And that is where all our letters and cards, written after the article in the earlier CALIFORNIA GARDEN magazine, played an important role. We told them we wanted it and we needed it. And, now that we've got our sleeves rolled up, what do we tackle next?



Author and photographer on one of the paths viewing the Saguaro *Carnegiea gigantea*.
Photo by Eugene Stevens

Street Tree Planting In San Diego

by Lloyd T. Lowrey

NO ONE, probably, would question the human value of a beautiful environment — the stimulation to cultural life, the contribution to happiness. Obviously, local pride is nurtured by civic beauty, and appreciative persons are drawn to an attractive town. An advantageous cycle is thus set in motion, since the persons who choose a community because of its beauty are usually those who will work to enhance its beauty further.

But some doubters may say these benefits are intangible and question their value in practical terms.

Many practical businessmen do not think these benefits intangible, however, as evidenced by an extensive tree planting program on the streets of downtown Los Angeles. Here, in the last five years, thirty-two companies have planted trees in the sidewalks adjacent to their businesses at an average cost of \$800 per tree. Why? Because they considered it a good investment.

Successful land developers testify to-day that most major industries in choosing new locations prefer well planned and clean communities which have made an effort to create and maintain a beautiful community environment. Tree lined streets can add immeasurably to this environment.

Nothing contributes more readily to the attractiveness of a community than its trees. Street trees always have been considered essential in the older centers of civilization, where one of the marks of a first-rate city is its handsome, tree-lined boulevards. The fast growing towns of the American West have

been prone to neglect this factor in civic development. But today its importance is becoming recognized and certainly its recognition is due.

To those poetic a city's trees may be considered a "Crown" to be worn proudly and guarded jealously. But what of San Diego's "Crown?" Our



Holly Oak *Quercus ilex*

City's "Crown" is indeed a small one, but one which is growing in size and lustre daily. With only about 150,000 trees growing on City streets and a population of more than 600,000 people, we can hardly match the claim of the city of Paris, France where it has been said that for every citizen there is at least one tree growing in the City. But we are improving.

Tree planting on San Diego's streets is the primary responsibility of the Park Division of the City's Public Works Department. This Division, operating under City Ordinances, controls street tree planting through the issuance of permits to interested property owners. Control is a militant sounding word but since streets are City property the City is obligated to maintain its streets in a safe and useable condition. And a poor selection and improper planting of street trees can be detrimental and potentially hazardous to street traffic, both pedestrian and vehicular, and even to adjacent private property.

To assist the public in achieving a beautiful and functional street tree "Crown," the Park Division has designated certain species of trees for planting on specified streets. Selection of species is based on several factors including width of the street involved, width of the planting strip (space between the sidewalk and street curb) if one exists, location of the street, i.e., coastal, inland, canyon area, etc. and the existence of undesirable obstructions such as overhead utility lines or underground utility lines which might be detrimental to tree growth. At the present time about sixteen tree species are considered to be suitable for street tree planting. These include (1) *Agonis flexuosa* (Peppermint tree); (2) *Callistemon viminalis* (Bottlebrush); (3) *Ceratonia siliqua* (Carob tree); (4) *Cupania anacardioides* (Carrotwood tree); (5) *Eucalyptus ficifolia* (Flame eucalyptus); (6) *Jacaranda acutifolia* (green ebony); (7) *Koeleria bipinnata* (Goldenrain tree); (8) *Liquidambar styraciflua* (Sweetgum); (9) *Pinus radiata* (Monterey pine); (10) *Podocarpus elongata* (Fern pine); (11) *Quercus ilex* (Holly oak); (12) *Tristania conferta* (Brisbane box); (13) *Magnolia grandiflora* (Magnolia); (14) *Erythea edulis* (Guadalupe palm); (15) *Seaforbia elegans* (King palm); (16) *Washingtonia robusta* (Mexican fan palm). These species have been chosen not only for their beauty and adaptability to street planting but also because of their low maintenance requirements. A street tree which requires a mini-

mum of maintenance after planting is a definite asset to the taxpayer who supports the City's tree maintenance program.

But what are the procedures for planting trees on City streets? First, a telephone call to the Park Division's Tree Maintenance Section (Phone 236-5744) will set the machinery in motion. Upon request an application for street tree planting will be mailed to the interested citizen. When the completed application is returned, a planting permit will be issued designating the tree species to be planted and a mimeographed sheet of planting method recommendations will be attached. In addition, a Division representative who has checked City street plans for locations of underground obstructions will follow up to assist in determining the best location for the tree to be planted. It is the re-

sponsibility of the citizen to buy the tree, provide all planting materials needed including a sturdy 2" x 8' redwood stake, dig the planting hole and plant the tree. Once the tree has been planted, however, the tree becomes the responsibility of the City for all maintenance except watering. The citizen concerned must water the tree, provide occasional fertilization and notify the Park Division of any special attention other than routine maintenance the tree may require.

Groups of citizens in a neighborhood wishing to plant at least twenty-five trees can obtain even more assistance from the Park Division. Following receipt of an application for tree planting from the group, a representative of the Division will contact the group and discuss tree selection. Usually about three species are considered but only one may be planted



Akee or Carrotwood *Cupania anacardioides*

on a specific street. After tree selection has been made, locations for the trees to be planted are marked and the Tree Maintenance Section drills the holes for planting. This is accomplished by a truck-mounted power auger which drills a hole 24" in diameter and about 4' deep. In our San Diego "soils" this service takes a lot of labor out of the tree planting process. The citizens group then purchases the trees and completes the planting.

Street tree planting throughout the City is gaining impetus in other ways. Subdivision Ordinances require street tree planting in new subdivisions. Trees must be planted by the Subdivider and maintained by him for three years or until the homes of the subdivision are all occupied. At this stage the City assumes responsibility for maintenance. A portion of the Gasoline tax collected by the State of

California is returned to the City and a portion of these funds is being used to plant trees on newly constructed streets in the Select Street System. These trees are planted by the Contractor constructing the street who maintains them for ninety days. The City then assumes responsibility.

About 3,500 trees are being planted on City streets each year. These trees and those existing are maintained by a City force of forty-one men at an annual expenditure of more than \$360,000.

So we are adding slowly to the size and lustre of our City's crown. We might ask: "Will there be any stars in our Crown?" There can be if each citizen will recognize the great beauty and value trees can bring to a City and if the City can financially assume its responsibility where maintenance of street trees is concerned.



GIVE CALIFORNIA GARDEN FOR CHRISTMAS

WHY not plan your Christmas shopping now! Give CALIFORNIA GARDEN for six Christmas gifts a year to those you love and admire the most. Sit down now and make your list of garden buffs or garden beginners.

No Christmas mobs — no tossed merchandise — no frayed nerves or aching feet or head — no standing in line and paying for gift wrapping — no parcel post mailers or express cartons to wrap and tug and haul.

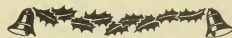
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Mexican Fan Palm, *Washingtonia robusta*



Flowers In History

by Ann Burnett

WHEN MAN freed himself from the tilling of the soil and the necessities of the hunt he began to give thought to the niceties of life. What better place to look than to the care of plants and arrangement of flowers? Since he had no written language he recorded his life on the walls of his cave by crude drawings.

History records the importance that floral decorations played in the earliest days of civilization. Adornments found on earliest architecture proves that flowers were grown and that they were displayed in vases and jars. During a scientific expedition in Egypt, vases thought to be from the period 2500 B.C. were uncovered. On the scraps of architecture uncovered, were found drawings of vases bearing the lotus flower.

Scientific expeditions also recorded that during a period four thousand years later, similar designs were found in Persia and Holland, giving rise to the speculation that the so similar design was executed to hold up the heavy-headed tulip, similar in weight and design to the lotus flower.

We find among the earliest writings of Greece and Rome, references to flowers and to the art of making garlands. Athletes, poets, civic leaders, sailors and soldiers were all recipients of wreaths awarded for outstanding performances. Young lovers wore identical wreaths at their wedding and the wreath was hung later on the door to announce the birth of a son.

The garland makers of that early Greek and Roman period was the florist of his day. When Roman civilization declined the art became a lost one. Gardening moved into the confines of the monastery walls. The priest carried on the art of floral dec-

orations; they outlined their formal gardens in a maze, the paths extended so that the visitor would take the same number of hours to walk the paths as Christ took on his walk to Calvary.

In viewing the old Masters in the Fine Arts Gallery we are struck anew with the use of flowers. In annunciation scenes the annunciation lily or white *lilium candidum* is repeated many times. This flower that has been cultivated in Europe since the earliest days of civilization, has come down to us as a symbol of chastity and fertility. Now known as the Madonna Lily, it is one of the commonest altar flowers today.

During the Flemish period artists painted the Iris or Virgin's flower, as it was then known, time and again in their religious works. We also find on the old canvasses many flowers that are surprisingly well-known today—peonies, day lilies, poppies, chrysanthemums, primroses, etc.

When settlers came to America they brought with them a little bit of transplanted homeland—the seeds of their native fruits, flowers and vegetables. Some seeds grew and thrived but many died in the severity of the first winter.

During the eighteenth century there grew up in the United States three distinct cultural centers. The New England states with their severe climate and rocky shores offered little chance for the cultivation of flowers. Food, the necessity of life, was all the settlers of New England could hope for. What flowers that were grown, were of the medicinal variety. Along the borders of their meager flower plots, herbs having medicinal values were planted. Red pepper was said to be fine for a rebellious stomach,

parsley was used to purify the blood, tarragon for healing the bites of mad dogs. The peony, for its healing properties, the rose petals dried not only for potpourri but for the healing for a sore throat; hollyhocks for kidney stones and gallstones. Possibly to avoid the tongue-lashings of a stern minister, marigolds were grown and added to drinks as a stimulant. If too much was put in, the marigolds had the adverse effect of inducing perspiration and lowering the body temperature.

The people who settled New Amsterdam were favored with a milder climate and less reason for struggling against the elements. They were a gayer people than the stern New Englanders. Their homes were a riot of color in the spring and they were known for their excellent orchards and gardens. They often picked the blossoms of fruit trees to bedeck their homes.

In the Southern states a still more temperate climate had its effect on the gardens. Virginia, however, was often in a state of turmoil due to her close tie with England. This political tie-in with England had a definite effect on the flowers grown during that period. The women of Virginia followed the idea of English floral arrangements, massing many flowers into one vase. Along with the flower gardens they planted herbs for beauty products as well as medicine. Every Southern housewife was trained in the making of beauty creams and hair dyes.

Thomas Jefferson of Monticello, writing in his diary in 1814, wrote: "No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of a garden. But though an old man, I am but a young gardener."

(Continued on page 15)

BIRD OF PARADISE

(Strelitzia reginae)

by Donald A. Briggs



ONE OF THE most beautiful flowers grown in America is the *Strelitzia reginae*, commonly known as the bird of paradise flower. The outstanding features of this exotic plant are its versatility and the lasting qualities of its blossoms. Its botanical name comes from the Transvaal district in South Africa. The first known discoverer was a Scotsman, Francis Masson, who took the plants to Kew Gardens in London from Africa in the 1770's. From there it was disseminated to different parts of the world wherever climatic conditions were suitable. The *strelitzia* flowers were named in honor of the wife of George III, Queen Charlotte Sophia of the family of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, because she was a botany enthusiast.

Strelitzia was originally one of the novelties brought into California in the 80's by tramp sea captains, and were very expensive, so until the 1920's most were cultivated on the estates of the wealthy.

The *strelitzia* genus consists of several species, among which are the *augusta*, *nicolai*, *parvifolia*, and *reginae* species. All of the species are members of the banana family.

Strelitzia augusta, the species that produced Queen Charlotte's favorite flower, grows to a height of about 18 feet. It has a trunk and the leaves spread to four feet in diameter and are

Bird of Paradise
Strelitzia reginae

two feet long. Flowers are white, and the purplish bract reaches about 12 to 15 inches in length.

Strelitzia nicotai, known as the giant bird of paradise flower, resembles the *S. augusta*, but is much larger and tree-like — the white flowers have a blue tongue.

Strelitzia parvifolia is trunkless, and its leaves grow to 9 inches in length and are about 3 inches wide; — the flowers are a bright orange with a blue tongue. The bracts are green edged with red and are about 6 inches long.

Strelitzia reginae is a large trunkless plant with green oval leaves. The spike upon which the flower is formed, ranges up to 5 feet or more in height. Many of the plants commonly referred to now as *strelitzia* are possibly crosses between the *parvifolia* and the *reginae* species. Many growers refer to all of the mentioned species as bird of paradise flower, which has resulted in some peoples' discovering in later years that they were not growing the plant that they had originally desired to grow.

Strelitzia reginae is the species most commonly grown for ornamental use, that most people today think of as the bird of paradise bloom, partly because the flower resembles a bird in flight. As the Bird of Paradise (which is a bird found in New Guinea) is noted for its magnificent plumage, so is this species of the *strelitzia* noted for its gay colors. The flowers are most unusual in that the size of the highly colored floral appearance is due to a series of colored bracts. The bracts are aborted leaves and are formed into green, red and/or purplish canoe-like structures which vary from four to eight inches in length as the plant matures. The beautiful floret that rises out of the bract consists of bright yellow or orange elongated petals and a dark blue tongue. The bract will contain two or more of these florets. The first floret will rise from the bract, followed in a few days by a second one. In case the two are desired at the same time, the bract or sheath can be flexed back and forth to loosen the orange petals of the next floret, then the bract at the end nearest the stem can be reached with thumb and forefinger to force out a new brightly colored floret.

A good *Strelitzia reginae* plant, after it is 8 years of age, should produce about three dozen flowering spikes during the blooming period of September through May.

Seeds and plants should always be purchased from a reputable dealer.

The importance of this point is considerable, as seeds or young plants take three to five years before they produce the lovely blooms desired. After caring for the plant and looking forward to its blooming for this length of time, the grower will want one that will grow to normal height and produce the properly shaped and colored exotic blooms.

For best results, plants should be set in good heavy loam that is rich and porous with good drainage. Plant experts differ on the best location for plants. Some claim that full sun is advisable while others recommend partial shade. It seems best to follow the rule of planting in full sun along the coast and in partial shade throughout the inland regions. Although the *strelitzia* is a tropical plant, it will tolerate (for a short time only) temperatures down to 24 degrees. A temperature of 29 degrees has affected the blooms adversely.

Strelitzia reginae plants should be planted at least six feet apart, unless the plants are to serve as a hedge, and in that case, four feet is adequate. As the plant grows, the roots spread out many feet from the center of the plant. The foliage of the mature plant should spread out about three to four feet in diameter and will reach six feet or more in height.

If they have been properly set, with the proper climatic conditions, they

will be fairly easy to maintain during the long wait for the desired blooms. A moderate amount of water at all times is necessary, but the soil should not be soggy. To encourage growth and a greater number of these exotic blooms, the grower should place fertilizer around the plant about every three months. An organic fertilizer and blood and bone meal are recommended. In the late summer, the blood runs up into the center of the new leaves. Just before the flowers bloom, the blood drops back down into the base of the plant.

The *Strelitzia reginae* plant is relatively pest free; however, it must be sprayed or dusted periodically for aphids and ants. A good dusting with chlordane-lindane insecticide on one or two hot days in the late summer should keep those pests fairly well under control. The worm that sometimes attacks the bract is similar to the corn borer. The best way to control this borer is to spray weekly during August and September. Also all snails that may appear should be destroyed immediately.

At least once a year, usually in the summer, dead leaves should be removed from the plant. The grower should cultivate around the plant as often as is necessary to keep the top soil loose and free of weeds. Cultivating too deeply may injure the root system.



Growing fields of Donald A. Briggs on Park Drive in Carlsbad. Harvesting the Birds of Paradise for shipping to Eastern Florists. As soon as the bud shows the faint bit of color, a paper jacket is slipped over it to protect the delicate structure during the cutting and shipping and to prevent the flower from reaching its colorful maturity before it achieves the florist's display.

The plant is best propagated by manual division of large clumps or by taking the various offshoots and potting them up to grow alone. When making the divisions of the root structure, the grower should leave enough of the original root on the plant to maintain its healthy growth. Dividing of the tubers should be done in the late spring or in the early summer. In cold weather, the roots are apt to rot if they are divided. It will take about three months for new growth to start. *Strelitzia reginae* should not be planted too deeply: the junction of the plant and the roots should be about level with the soil surface.

For seed production, only the better plants should be chosen. Pollenizing in some areas is done by hummingbirds, but in our area, it is done by hand. The blue tongue of the flower must be opened, and the pollen inside, pushed along to the tip of the pistil. This procedure may be followed on each floret as it rises up from the bract so as to obtain a larger number of sacs of seeds. The seeds are formed in a sac that will appear at the neck of the bract where it joins the stem. It takes about six months for the seeds to form and mature, at which time the sac will burst. This indicates that the seeds are ready to be collected. Each sac will contain about 10 to 20 seeds. The seeds should always be stored in a cool, dry place until ready to be planted. Mice are attracted to the seeds, so they should be stored in a container that is mouse proof. Mice will also destroy the seeds after they have been planted. The seeds are small black spheres with an orange fuzz at one end. When planted, they should be placed in clean soil about one-half inch deep. Seeds take about two and one-half months to germinate; some take longer. Flowers will not appear until about eight to ten healthy leaves have been produced. This usually takes about three to five years. Two or three more years must elapse before growth reaches good productivity.

These versatile flowers are now widely used in modern decor adding an exotic beauty whether used alone or with other flowers. The *Strelitzia reginae* plant may be used as a tub plant, or it is outstanding as a hedge plant. Because of the large green leaves, the plants do well between foundation ornamentals and the lawn area. The distinctive flowers are good for marginal use as well as for adding beauty around a pool or small body of water. *Strelitzia reginae* is known for its graceful distinctive form, beauty

and long-lasting quality. These features were primarily responsible for its becoming the official flower of the city of Los Angeles.

Arrangements made with the cut flowers seem to be best when made with an uneven number of bird of paradise flowers, whether alone or combined with other flowers or foliage. Many lovely floral designs have been created, using only three, five or seven in a flat bowl or container. The dramatic bloom lends additional beauty and brilliance to many types of de-

signs and is suitable for giving the final touches of sophistication in modern decor. Cut flowers will last about 15 days if they are given the proper care. About one-half inch of the stems should be cut off every other day. This should be done with a sharp knife, making a diagonal cut to provide a greater fresh area for the intake of water. Fresh water should be placed in the container to maintain the delicate beauty of the blooms. Keeping the flowers in a cool place will also help to prolong their life.

Arrangement of Birds of Paradise in an Eastern Florist's Shop displayed the colorful spectacular blooms that added a lift to the bleak winter days in many Eastern areas and contributed to its immense popularity.



FLOWERS IN HISTORY from page 11

There is much folklore concerning flowers and even today florists list the meaning of flowers in advertisements. From China many old wives tales tell of the interest shown in plants in that country. Because of the frailty of cut blossoms the Chinese consider all flowers to be feminine. The four seasons of the year are denoted by white flowers, plum for winter, peony for springtime, lotus for summer and chrysanthemum for fall.

From the followers of Confucius there has come much symbolism pertaining to flowers. The orchid, tiger lily and pomegranate typify love, beauty and fertility.

In the earliest days all flower arranging was done by men. Priests, nobility and warriors, returning from battle, found relaxation in the art. When the women saw the fun that the men were having they took up this pursuit also. However, they were never permitted to make a display until well into the sixteenth century. But by the nineteenth century they had not only mastered the art from the men, but usurped their prerogative.

From China the art of flower displays spread to Japan. The Japanese adopted and adapted the Chinese idea. "Flowers like to talk to each other" stated the priests and florists and therefore they placed flowers nodding to each other. The Japanese made much use of pine, plum and bamboo as they felt the three plants were symbolic of the three friends, Lao-tse, Confucius and Buddha.

The Japanese describe the growth of a plant from flower to fruit, as the moving of the soul of the plant through the four seasons of life. In spring the soul of the plant is to be found in its flower. In summer it takes up quarters in the leaves, in autumn the soul moves into the fruit and in the winter its abode is in the branches. Wherever you look the soul of man responds to the soul of flowers.

According to an old Chinese proverb, "Habits and customs differ, but all people have the love of flowers in their hearts."

Bibliography: The San Diego Public Library offers a wealth of material to the gardener, arranger or general flower lover. Among the most popular: *A History of Flower Arrangement* by Julia S. Berrall, and *Better Flower Arrangements*, by Elizabeth Bear as well as *Japanese Flower Arrangements*, by Mary Averill which have been the source for the collection of ideas above.

San Diego Botanical-Garden Foundation, Inc.



HAVE YOU become a MEMBER of the San Diego Botanical-Garden Foundation?

THERE STILL IS TIME.

Charter memberships are still open to all individuals and organizations until December 31, 1966.

The San Diego Botanical-Garden Foundation, Inc. is a live working organization comprising member garden clubs and individuals interested in gaining support for the construction and operation of the Garden Center in Balboa Park. It plans to encourage extensive floriculture and to expand into a vast research center for horticulture in this area.

An official seal to be used on all documents, stationery, and membership cards has been accepted, after presentation by Mrs. Sim Bruce Richards; chairman of the committee to design a seal. Mr. Neil Cate designed the tree for the seal.

The foundation encouraged municipal and county interest in the beautification of our city. The Board of Trustees sent a Letter of Commendation to the Mayor and City Council on their acceptance of the Tree Planting plan for the streets in the central

business district. It is hoped this program will continue and flourish so that many street trees may be planted to beautify and to add color to our landscape.

The organization will be working with the 200th Anniversary Celebration Committee to encourage floral plantings to make our city and county colorful in the year 1969.

Mrs. Paul Witham was appointed Chairman of a Committee on California Native Plants.

Mr. Al O'Brien, as an appointed Coordinator of Garden Clubs for the Board of Councilors, called a meeting on October 20 to acquaint the clubs with their participation within the foundation. United, there is strength; individually, we can do little. On November 30, 1966, all representatives of the garden clubs will meet to elect officers of the Board of Councilors.

Let's all support the Foundation.

Insure the future of our San Diego Botanical-Garden Foundation by becoming a member during the rest of this charter year.

SIGN UP NOW!

by Penny Bunker

SAN DIEGO BOTANICAL GARDENS FOUNDATION INC.

needs your donations and bequests for a

GARDEN CENTER

IN BALBOA PARK



Your No Service-Charge Checking Account Bank

THE CONIFERS OF SAN DIEGO COUNTY

by Betty Mackintosh

Where winter is really winter, and all other plant life dies down or goes dormant, the evergreen cone-bearing trees, the conifers, bask in unrivaled glory. Not so in Southern California! In fact, how many San Diego County residents know they have as natives 7 pines, 2 cypresses, Big-cone Spruce, White Fir, Incense Cedar and California Juniper. Of these conifers, two are unique: the Torrey Pine and the Stephenson or Cuyamaca Cypress.

To see them in their natural habitat takes a bit of traveling, some of it on foot.

The very best bird's-eye view of the conifers of the County is an exhibit on the main floor of the Natural History Museum. Here, in one group are the needles, bark and cone of each species, a short description, and a photograph of the tree showing its characteristic shape.

The Torrey Pine probably at one time had a much wider range along the coast. Now it is found on about a five-mile stretch on the mainland from the Soledad Estuary to that of the San Dieguito at Del Mar and on Santa Rosa Island. Torrey Pines State Park gives protection to the largest remaining stand of these wind-blown maritime pines, as well as making their beauty available. Take the old Torrey Pines grade off U.S. 101 between La Jolla and Del Mar.

Back several miles from the coast, in a few canyons of the furthest south mountains of the county, from about 1,000 to 3,000 feet elevation, grows the Tecate Cypress. On Otay Mountain they are either on private property or on federal land surrounded by the former. There is a grove visible from

Highway 80 on a northeast slope, south side of the highway, near Guatay. A single tree a short distance east of the "Tecate Divide" marker, same highway, shows what a symmetrical form it can take when it grows without competition. One of the interesting things about this cypress is that the cones open to release the seed only when well roasted, so when brush fires wipe out one generation, there are many cones waiting, and given any break at all—with rain, a whole new crop springs up. Tecate Cypress are found farther on south in Baja California.

The Stephenson or Cuyamaca Cypress is known only from Kings Can-

yon on the rugged western slopes of Cuyamaca Mountain into which there is neither road nor trail, a fortuitous circumstance, no doubt, for the survival of this small remnant.

On the highest peaks of the county grow the Ponderosa Pine (or Western Yellow), the Jeffrey Pine, the Coulter and the Sugar Pine, the White Fir, and the Incense Cedar. All except the Sugar Pine may be seen from Highway 79 between Highway 80 and Julian. The Western Yellow, *Pinus ponderosa*, is easily distinguished by its pinkish bark which is divided into large segments or "plates." It is one of the largest of our pines, but has the smallest cones, 3 to 4 inches long.



California Juniper is a small tree, 12 to 15 feet high with dark green foliage and powder-white berries.

Photo by Mackintosh



Pinon cones are gathered by the Indians when quite green, spread on the ground in the sun, where they open in a day or two, releasing the rich pinon nut.

Photo by Mackintosh

The Jeffrey, a variety of *P. ponderosa*, and often crossed with it, has a rough grey bark, and cones about 2 inches longer but not much larger around than the Ponderosa. The Coulter has the biggest, heaviest cones, up to about 8 inches in length and 6 inches in diameter, a handsome cone, but well-armed with sharp-pointed scales, and full of pitch until well weathered.

It takes a sharp look-out to see the Incense Cedar, *Libocedrus decurrens*, and the White Fir from the road. The cedar foliage spreads in flat yellow-green fans, and an old tree can be readily recognized by its reddish-brown trunk deeply furrowed up and down.

The fir, *Abies concolor*, has the characteristic Christmas-tree shape only while young. Old trees drop their lower branches, but long retain the symmetrical tops, in old age becoming more weathered and irregular.

The Sugar Pine, *Pinus lambertiana*, is not abundant this far south, and grows at a little higher elevation than Highway 79. It can be seen on the Cuyamaca skyline, distinguished by its long horizontal branches. In late summer, with cones pendant at the tips of the branches, drippy with pitch, it almost seems as if the Sugar were holding out her arms in the sun to see the jewels sparkling on her fingers (see cover). The cone is a long, slender one, averaging about 14 inches in length and 5 inches in diameter. On a part of the California Riding and Hiking Trail, in Cuyamaca State Park, where it takes a loop around Middle

Rock, some very large Sugars may be seen, as well as the other pines (above) fir and cedar. This trail is not open to vehicles—you have to walk or ride horseback here.

The Big-cone Spruce, *Pseudotsuga macrocarpa*, grows a little lower, and generally on the drier east slopes. A good place to see it is on the Banner Grade, going down into the desert from Julian. The cones and needles are similar to those of the fir, but the tree shape is entirely different, with far-apart branches wind-blown and weathered.

Juniperus californica likes high desert mesa country with granite boulders for company, occurring east of Jacumba, along the Montezuma Road to Borrego, in the San Felipe Valley, on the east side of the Lagunas, and on Piñon Mountain in the Anza Borrego State Park, where it meets another desert dweller, the Piñon.

We have two Piñons—the 1-needle and 4-needle varieties, *Pinus cem-broides* and *P. parryana*, respectively, but not too many of either one. One or the other or both occur on the desert side of the Lagunas, Desert Viewpoint, near Mountain Springs, and on Piñon Mountain. The latter may be reached by a trail which turns east off the Vallecito Stage Station Road about 5 miles south of Scissors Crossing. They prefer Baja California, however, and many more than we have decorate the top of the grade on Mexico 2 between La Rumorosa and Mexicali.

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Commercial and Artistic

**PHOTOS
BY MACKINTOSH**

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Parable Of The Poor Proud Patio

ONCE upon a time there was a poor neglected little patio that had once known better times but was now forced to remain hidden by tall weeds and debris behind a big building where in earlier times, gay laughter and the ringing voices of lively men and women enjoying the beautiful flowers and plants they had grown, were often heard.

But alas the children grew up and moved away and started families of their own and the lively men and women slowed their steps and their hair became silver and they turned to quieter pursuits. So the poor little patio was forgotten as it slowly became dirty and dishevelled with debris. Those that remembered that it was still there, turned their heads away when passing by, so as not to see its misfortunes, for they did feel a small sense of guilt.

Then it chanced that a young member of the family desired to return to the old home. Her lively laughter and curiosity stirred the blood of the older members but alas their steps, now paced to a slow tread, could not be quickened. The active young member discovered the forlorn deserted patio hidden under her tattered covering of weeds and underbrush and dirt. First her pity and then her anger was aroused as she became acquainted with the sad little patio, pushed, neglected and rejected, into the background. She felt that the little patio who had once shown so much promise, could and should be brought back into the family councils and fun. And that each member of the family would want to go out of his way to be especially nice to her if only out of a sense of guilt for his neglect and ignoring of her charms.

Will the poor little patio be brought back to health, completely rehabilitated, and dressed in new garments, take her rightful place in the family circle? Will the family accept her and give parties in her honor to show her off, and each member try to make up by special favors for the neglect that she had received at their hands?

Or—will the arch-villains General Neglect and Sir Slackness and Sir Sloth win? They had been quietly circulating among the family members slyly whispering "Your own interests come first. Go with the crowd to sports and shows and hullabaloo. Don't waste time and energy on family plant growing and exhibitions which can take all year and have so little to show. You can buy big bright plastic ones that everyone will admire all day, then tear, trample and fling away and forget as they rush on to some new pur-



Mrs. O. M. Conoly and Mrs. L. J. Kulot take a rest in the patio on Patio Clean-up Day.

suit. You don't want to be so old-fashioned. Have someone build you an Easy Care Garden that can be serviced once a month by a robot. That is the latest for the IN crowd and gardening is OUT-doors."

To be continued. Watch for the next chapter later on.

Of course the above parable is "just a dream." In modern jounalese, it means: The Point Loma Garden Club, under its president, Mrs. Philip Hardie and its Twin Inspirations Mrs. O. M. Conoly and Mrs. L. J. Kulot, changed their meeting place to the Floral Building. Since they meet at 10 a.m.

they discovered the neglected patio (which still could be discerned among the trees in broad daylight) and they thought "What a beautiful place for meetings and parties, if . . ."

They are a group that thinks first; then acts. Result: they spent a day when they and their husbands worked like laborers and geni (which adds up to gardeners) and the beautiful courtyard in the center emerged from its chrysalis but alas the fringe chrysalis was still there. The Twin Inspirations did not disappear into rainbow mist when a part of their dream became reality.

Instead they came to a Floral Association meeting and asked permission

for a Cleanup Saturday when all Floral Association members and all members of the 16 Affiliate Clubs would work together to complete the rehabilitation, then counsel together on plans for its constant use and upkeep in the future. Floral Association appointed a committee with Mrs. Conoly as chairman and Virgil Schade, Penny Bunker, Art Day and Vera Morgan as members. Mrs. Conoly called the presidents of all the 16 affiliates and explained the project to them and invited them to an all-day Cleanup on Saturday, October 29.

Bright and early this day the Point Loma Club was represented by General and Mrs. Conoly, Mrs. Hardie and Mrs. Warner and Commander and Mrs. Kulot with two wheelbarrows. The Mens' Garden Club sent Dr. J. W. Troxell and Mr. Fred Echeverria with a truck and two trained helpers. Mr. Jim Watson, President, represented the Fuchsia Society. The Cactus and Succulent Society was represented by its President, eighty years young, Dr. R. V. Vaughn and Mrs. Vaughn, Mrs. Howe and Mr. and Mrs. Scott. General Dynamics Garden Club was represented by its director, J. Everett Henderson, Charlie Splinter, who is also a member of the Mens' Garden Club and the San Diego County Dahlia Society, and also Bill Spann and Martin Conlon who were guests but proved to be excellent workers, even clearing the leaves off the roof. San Diego Imperial Counties Iris Society was represented by its President, Art Day and Mrs. Jose Garcia. The Floral Society has as representatives its President, Mrs. Emmett Fowler who brought coffee, welcomed by the workers with their sack lunches, and by Betty Mackintosh and Penny Bunker. It was planned that as they worked, the people who attended would learn from each other specific planting and growing secrets, but all were so busy with their own tasks that the day ended with work yet to be done. The fellowship of work was continued the following Saturday by a dedicated crew and yet more has been accomplished later by a hard-core crew of fighters against neglect, until our PATIO has emerged in its rehabilitated freshness, ready for planting by volunteer crews from the specialist Affiliate Clubs.

Plans for its constant care and suggestions for its multitudinous uses by all groups are still to be discussed at a future meeting called by its Fairy Godmothers. Watch for a continuation of this story. THE PATIO NEEDS You-u-u.

Calendar of Care

Down-to-Earth Gardening for December, 1966 & January, 1967



by Dick Hull, Plantsman

GARDENERS during this time of year watch for the forecast of a weekend with "Fair and continued mild." When the weather is permitting work in the garden, give top priority to the planting of bareroot plants. The season is now upon us for planting deciduous shrubs, trees, small fruits and berries that you want to get started this year. Winter rains aid the plants to get established fast and you can help the garden budget by saving the extra cost that nurseries have to include for putting plants into larger containers during the growing season. Nurserymen also supply hardy evergreens (and often other trees and shrubs) with their roots "balled and burlapped," that is—lifted with plenty of soil around the roots and wrapped tightly with burlap to keep root system and soil intact. The abbreviation "B & B" is sometimes used in the advertising copy of nurseries. During the cool winter season is the time to watch for this type of plant offering which is often used for citrus as well.

Some bulbs can be planted in late December and January. The common summer bulbs can now go in and some unusual ones, exotics, greenhouse subjects, plus the last-minute planting of spring flowering bulbs that we didn't get a chance to put in earlier. If you have a glass house or other means of protection, potting up summer blooming bulbs, such as achimenes, tuberous begonias, gloxinias can be carried on now. But the middle of January is a better time, since it is difficult to keep these bulbs growing well for a long period of time under protection.

Early flowering azaleas and camellias are now to be found in bloom in the nurseries. If you are planning to increase your collection or to plant some new areas, check with the nurseries from now until late spring, to become acquainted with the new plants and their way of growth to aid you in your selection of new varieties. Both camellias and azaleas prefer a well-drained acid soil that is porous and located in partial shade. If you are considering moving them from one area

to a better place, the time to do it is now, for they can best be moved when they are blooming, or have just finished blooming, before the new leaves start to come out. Some Sasanqua camellias of the earlier bloomers are still showing color; others are just starting to reach their peak of colorful blooming. The early Japonica camellias are in full color. With such a diversity of blooming periods try to select camellia varieties that will carry the blooming over a longer time. With planning, you can have them flowering from November to March.

Cleaning up and picking up old twigs, leaves and debris that has accumulated in the garden during the past months, is being tidy in the garden, and much of gardening can be included as outdoor housekeeping. This will also help to rid your garden of many over-wintering insects and bugs that find a good home in the debris. Follow the cleanup with a good dormant cleanup spray before new leaf growth appears. This can be applied to almost all hardy shrubs,

If spraying can be accomplished before all of the leaves fall, it will prevent some insects and disease from spreading into the soil and root areas.

Place hardwood cuttings of deciduous shrubs in a sheltered bed or put in sand to callous and form roots to be lifted and planted out in the spring. Some shrubs that can be easily rooted in this manner include Forsythia, Crape myrtle, Weigelia, currants, Philadelphus and the ligustrums. Cuttings from some of the broadleaved evergreens can also be taken now, and started in a sand and soil mix. This is an excellent way to obtain more plants of your favorite shrubs.

Chrysanthemums have just about finished their blooming season now. When they have completely finished, cut them back to about four inches high. If the space they are occupying at present is needed for other plants, dig up the clump and replant it, as is, in an inconspicuous part of the garden. Then when the time comes in February and March, to divide and make cuttings of these chrysanthemums, you will have an abundance of young plants to set out a larger area and to trade with fellow-gardeners as well.

Vegetables to plant this time of year, should be put in when the soil is not too wet. A tight compacted soil will result which will restrict the plant's root growth. For the dinner table of "young and tenders" try beets, cabbage, broccoli, carrots, cauliflower, kohlrabi, lettuce (head), onions, parsley, radishes, spinach, Swiss chard and turnips. Soil for the vegetable garden should contain plenty of humus. Use one sack of steer manure per 100 square feet, well worked into the soil 8 to 10 inches deep. If your soil is extra heavy, add straw or peat moss to the steer manure before working it into the soil. Fine seeds of carrots and other plants are difficult to plant without getting the sowing too thick. Mixing the seed with moist sand before sowing makes planting easier, with better spacing, assures moisture and helps germination. Feed the plants after the sets have been in for two weeks and the young plants from seed have been thinned. A good balanced fertilizer will bring the vegetables on faster.

Pruning is a garden art. It is an old, important and sometimes misunderstood action. Many beginners make the mistake of thinking that all or most plants and trees need this action regularly in the fall and spring. In some cases this may cause loss of bloom, lack of fruit and misshapen shrubs. As you can well suppose, this

can be very disheartening. No pruning should be undertaken without the understanding of what the final results will be in the end to the trees and shrubs. To what extent a plant is pruned depends not only on the type of plant but what it is being grown for. Young trees, shrubs and vines may need pruning to obtain the desired pattern and shapes that one wants. With older plants, pruning is required to maintain them in good condition for health, flowers, fruits and pattern desired.

One sure type of pruning that is always safe to do, is the removal of dead and diseased wood. This should be done at any time when first noticed. Be sure that the techniques that you use in pruning are careful and safe for the tree and for you as well. A great amount of damage has been caused by careless placing of ladders. Because one has seen a lineman climbing a pole with spikes or climbing irons, one most certainly does not want this on a valued tree. Any large scar can interfere with the nutrition of the tree and result in a misshapen or weak, poorly-nourished specimen. Flowering trees and vines are pruned

in late spring or early summer after they have flowered. In some cases, wisterias for instance, summer pruning may be accomplished with advantage. To sum up, don't prune all plants just because it is the winter season. It depends upon what is desired of the plant and just how much the plant will stand for.

At Christmas time a good many plants are given as gifts. Be careful not to keep these gift plants under the Christmas tree too long. Plants do not take to the dry-air heat indoors. A blooming azalea or camellia will do much better outside on the patio where it can be enjoyed and seen from inside. A cyclamen or a gloxinia can be kept indoors if kept moist and not allowed to dry out. I would like to extend my greetings of the season to you with these parting words. Friendship is within the reach of everyone of us and we can make a loyal friend out of almost anyone whom Providence places in our path. Patience and forbearance lead companionship into a friendship of closeness. Understanding and faith do the rest, and we can grow friendships as we grow plants to the advantage of all of us.



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Camellias

by Lucien C. Atherton

San Diego Camellia Society

IT ALL began with the Alba Plena. It was the first named camellia variety to be introduced into the western world from its natural habitat in the Orient. It survived the long hard sea voyage to its new home in England, and crossed the Atlantic to America. It forms an important part in the history of this favorite garden shrub.

The camellia has a long and interesting history, and belongs to the fam-

ily Ternstroemaceae. This genus was named for a Moravian Jesuit, George Joseph Kamel, who died in Manila in 1706. Carl Linnaeus, a Swedish physician turned botanist gave "Camellia" its Latin generic name. An interesting reprint on the origin of the name appears in the October 1966 issue of the Camellia Review. Camellia, from Kamel's Latinized name, Camellus, is pronounced ca-mell-ia, and not camell-ya or ca-meel-ya. The last, cor-

rect or not, is the most common pronunciation in this country.

The first camellia plants on record, single reds, were grown in the greenhouses of Lord Petre in England in the late 1730's, but soon died because they were considered to be tropical plants and were kept over-heated.

The Alba Plena is the oldest surviving named variety of the species Camellia Japonica. In 1796 Capt. Connor of the East Indian ship "Carnatic" brought this double white to one of his patrons, John Slater of London, from the Orient. It aroused a great deal of interest and by 1830, twenty-six varieties growing in England, originating in China, and fourteen English grown seedlings were listed. Thereafter the numbers of varieties increased rapidly in England and also on the European continent.

The first camellia arrived in America in 1798 when John Stevens of Hoboken, N.J., imported a single red. In America, as in England, the real interest came about with the arrival of the first Alba Plena. It was in 1800 when a Michael Floy brought a specimen of Alba Plena from England. Within thirty years camellias were found in most of the greenhouse collections of the larger northern cities, such as Boston, New York, Baltimore and Washington. In 1821 William Prince, a nurseryman of Long Island, listed 21 varieties for sale. Michael Floy went into the nursery and florist business and produced 42 named seedlings. Practically every variety produced in England found its way into American collections.

As the camellia's popularity as a greenhouse plant declined in the northeastern cities, it increased in the south and on the Pacific coast, where it could be grown in the open under natural cultural conditions. As one might expect, the Alba Plena was among the first to be shipped into these areas. It occupied a place in the history of the south when the southern plantation aristocracy organized a social group known as "The Knights of the White Camellia." This aristocratic choice was the Alba Plena. In the post-Civil War Period, this group became the Ku Klux Klan in an attempt to salvage part of their former way of life.

The Alba Plena is one of few camellias to survive the confusion of multiple names. It is long lived and several plants are well over a 100 years old, especially in the south. One has been grown as a container plant in

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Virginia for over 100 years. In spite of the multiplicity of forms and colors, the Alba Plena has been and is probably now the favorite variety of the white camellias.

This plant is difficult to get started but grows well after it has become established. It makes a semi-erect compact growth with dark glossy, green foliage. It blooms from early to mid-season. This variety produces complete double, regular, imbricated blooms. The flowers are pure white in color and medium large in size. It is still the only proven white, complete double in the trade that performs in all areas under variable conditions. There have been many new white double introductions but none has replaced the Alba Plena. It is used by florists for corsages and yet is a good garden plant because it opens well under most weather conditions.

It is a complete double without stamens, and thus does not produce seeds, and unlike many varieties it does not have mutations. So-called Alba Plena sports have not been proven. For 275 years, since 1792 and probably for a long period before that date, the Alba Plena has survived in its pure form through propagation by cuttings and graftings. It is a beautiful variety, and has surely survived the test of time.

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Roses

by John G. Farleigh

San Diego Rose Society

DECEMBER and January are very important months in the rose care calendar. Pruning and planting time is upon us, and next year's garden depends on how well we perform these chores.

If you haven't already done so, now is the time to prepare the soil for bare root plantings. The hole should be dug generous in size. Let's try for a two foot diameter and two feet deep. This is the time to put in the "goodies"—a cup of soil sulphur to balance out our alkaline water, some bone meal for sturdy stems, sprinkle in some humusite for beneficial bacteria and about a cubic foot of milorganite or other low nitrogen fertilizer. Spade this mixture up until well blended and let it "mellow up" for a few weeks so that the food value will be available when the plant needs it.

The next item that calls for our attention is pruning. For this job you need the right tools. The investment in good pruning shears will make the

job a lot easier. The hook and blade type is preferred by most rosarians. These will take care of most of your needs. For canes over a half-inch in diameter loppers come in handy. Loppers are shears with wood or metal extension handles. A small saw for extra large or tough canes will complete the tool kit. Don't forget to protect yourself with a sturdy pair of leather gloves—the gauntlet type if possible.

Rosarians in this area agree, informally at least, that the middle of January is the best time to prune. Some years rain and other more pressing problems have interfered and the roses did not mind very much. We have pruned as early as the Christmas Holidays and as late as the middle of February. Regardless of when you prune, the bushes inherently know when to start growing.

Roses should be pruned according to their growth habit. Hybrid-teas and Grandifloras should be pruned to a

vase shape. Four or five well-spaced canes are ideal. The center should be kept open and the canes cut off at a forty-five degree angle above a good outside bud. Slant the cut away from the bud. Don't leave any stubs or hat racks above the buds. These have a tendency to "die-back" eventually all the way to the bud-head (where the canes originate) and may kill the plant.

Floribundas need less severe pruning. All twiggy and dead growth should be removed. Trim the plant back to the desired shape—again insuring that the canes are cut above a good outside bud.

Climbers are a special case. Next years' bloom will be borne on this years' long arching canes, so we will be especially careful not to damage them while we cut out all the old corky growth and twigs that contain no buds of merit. The remaining canes should then be arched gently over a trellis or tied to a fence or other supporting structure. Arching the canes encourages a lateral stem from each bud on the cane; these will provide you with most of your bloom.

If you are still a little reluctant to start pruning, you are invited to attend the San Diego Rose Society's annual pruning demonstration which will be held in the rose garden in Balboa Park in January. Watch for the announcement of the date and time in the garden section of the local papers. The old-fashioned roses in the Whaley House garden will be the subject of another public demonstration. The date and time will also be announced in the local papers.

When you have completed pruning, remove any remaining leaves from the canes. Rake up all leaves and debris which can harbor diseases and fungus. Spray the entire garden thoroughly with a good dormant spray—at least twice a week or at ten day intervals.

The best time to plant roses is during the bare root season. January through the middle of February. Watch the local nursery advertising and shop while the selection is best. Look for robust plants with three or four good canes having a number of well formed buds. The root system should be in proportion to the size of the canes. Examine the plants for broken canes and roots. They lead a tough life during the harvesting, packaging and shipping operations, so be sure what you're getting before you take them home.

To get on with the actual planting, (Continued on page 27)

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Bromeliads

by Mrs. Cleoves Hardin

President, San Diego Bromeliad Society

LAST but not the least, a group of Bromeliads that are found often but just as often misidentified, are the Canistrums, Nidulariums and Guzmanias.

Let's look at the Nidulariums—often mistaken for Neoregelias. True, the center colors and the leaves put on a blush months before the actual flowers arrive but after the center bracts begin, one can tell quickly which it is.

One of the most beautiful foliage plants is *Nidularium innocentii* var. *lineatum*. It is a large wide-leaved, flat rosette with white lines running lengthwise of the broad, pure green leaves. When coming into bloom, the inner cluster of leaves turn red. The flowers which are long tube-like, are white. *N. innocentii* is the same shape and flower except the leaves are plain green.

To go to the other extreme of color we find *N. burckellii*. The leaves formed in a tall vase shape are dull blood red and not as closely compacted as the other varieties. In fact, this is one that could be confused with an *Aechmea*. The flowers, which are borne on a long stem, are reddish orange and are surrounded by a rosette of bracts rather than the loose bract pattern of the *Aechmeas*.

The *Canistrums* are a small group of mostly apple green foliage with fine toothed edges. As in the *Nidulariums* the bract leaves are found in a closely compacted rosette held high above the plant on a sturdy stem.

Those most commonly found in the collectors group are *C. lindeni* var. *lindeni*, with wide, wavy, green leaves, occasionally flecked with a darker green and arranged in a formal rosette. The rose colored flower head with white or light pink bracts can either be submerged in the center or raised on a stem thereby adding two forms in the variety. *C. lindeni* var. *roseum* has

longer leaves, darker green and rose colored underneath. It is a large, loose rosette requiring an adequate space to grow to a perfect specimen. If space is not available to grow it on the bench, this group does well in a basket. They do appreciate a little cooler air but well ventilated so that the heavy stem does not become wet as they will rot very easily. The flower bracts are dusky rose with white or cream colored flowers.

There are only seven species in this genus and all are native to Brazil.

Guzmanias are a smaller in size group of predominantly green plants. They are more epiphytic than the others so far discussed. The leaves are smooth, usually narrow and most varieties have thin pencil stripes in maroon underneath. Taken by and large these little jewels are easy to grow and bloom readily. The one seen most frequently is *G. lingulata* var. *minor*. It is a small plant that offsets well and it will grow into a formal rosette. The white flowers appear at the end of a short, thick stem held in a petal shaped bowl of bracts, usually bright orange tipped with white. When the flowers die and the seed pods form, it is a little gem. The pods are about 2 inches long of polished ebony and when they break open, they twist to look like a corkscrew.

Guzmania musaica is perhaps one of the most spectacular of all foliage plants. The bright green leaves are irregularly banded with dark green lines waving across a 4 to 6 inch broad leaf. The flower spike matures at about 12 inches and the flowers are white to cream. The stem itself produces the brilliant color progressing from a delicate pink to a flaming scarlet. Of course, as one would expect this is not an easy one to find to purchase or to grow.

Guzmania monostachya var. *tricolor* is another one that is amazing when

it blooms. A very soft, many leaved, flat rosette of light green, the inflorescence rises on a stiff spike from green bracts which are marked with maroon lines that continue to the apex where the white flower emerges tipped with a flaming iridescent red. This one is not too hard to find and is very rewarding in that it offsets very readily. Its offsets are close into the heart of the plant, and you can have a many spiked specimen plant if it is not separated.

Perhaps the largest and best known of the *Guzmanias* is *G. Zabnii*. It is a tall, thin leaved, yellow-green plant with dark lengthwise stripes on the underneath side of the leaves that tend to turn red if given bright light. The bracts are bright red and the flowers are clear yellow and much larger than other *Guzmanias*. Although it usually puts on just one or two offsets, it is a must for every collector.

For the collector, this group of Bromeliads represents a challenge. Many new hybrids are being made and soon will be found in the Bromeliad nurseries. Mr. Ed Hummel of Carlsbad is doing the greatest share of producing these plants at the present. To get some of his plants is a prize worth seeking.

The care of this group is just about the same as other Bromeliads except that the leaves are softer and more prone to sunburn. Care should be given when fertilizing so that chemical burn does not result from too much residue left in the cups too long. Of course with insecticides, one must always use caution; even more so with these more tender plants.

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Orchids

by Byron H. Geer

San Diego County Orchid Society

GROWING plants are apt to be perverse things, as unpredictable as small children and frequently equally frustrating. Sometimes they seem to be indulging themselves in a sabbatical during which they neither grow nor bloom. Then, for no obvious reason they will take off as if making up for lost time. You are kept busy trimming, training, staking and dividing in a futile attempt to keep up with the maturing growths and flower spikes. This season's Cymbidium crop is a good case in point. Last year at the end of Summer most Orchid growers were singing the blues because growths had not matured, even the early bloomers were not showing signs of spikes, etc. Apparently this Fall is going to tell an entirely different story. August brought forth a rash of bloom spikes peeping out at the base of healthy fat growths, and the mid-season and late blooming varieties are coming along months earlier than could be expected. We seem to be headed for a bumper crop of bloom. But why? There have been no radical differences in weather, with temperatures and rainfall holding to their normal summer pattern. We are still stuck with highly alkaline water and most of us have followed the same fertilizing program that we have used in the past. There doesn't seem to be any logical explanation, yet most hobby growers are reporting early bloom and multiple spikes on plants that are normally shy bloomers. Ideas, anyone?

If your Cymbidiums have not performed as well as you have expected, look to your own cultural practices for the reasons. Inadequate feeding, lack of water and insufficient light are probably the causes. The Cymbidium orchid is a relatively heavy feeder, and though they will survive with little or no feeding, the plants have a hard enough time just staying alive and

seldom develop the strength required to initiate and mature good bloom spikes. And they are not really fussy about the type of food that they get. Any good, balanced garden fertilizer given twice monthly in a proper amount will keep them reasonably happy. It's true that some fertilizers seem to give better results than others, but anything is far better than nothing. Judging from what I have seen over a period of years, I would make a perfectly safe bet that the majority of the Cymbidiums grown by the amateur gardener are badly underfed. So far as watering is concerned, exactly the same advice applies. These are plants that are grown, or at least should be grown, in a loose, porous compost. Consequently, they will dry out far more rapidly than plants in a soil mixture. If they are dried out to the wilting point, the plant has to live on stored moisture and the bulbs dehydrate as a result. Dry, leathery leaves and shriveled pseudobulbs are sure signs of lack of water, and it may take weeks or months to fatten them up after normal watering is resumed. In this case too, all the plant's energy is going into the fight for survival, and you can't logically expect the plant to reward your negligence with bounteous blossoms.

More and more, as the years go by, we are appreciating the prime importance to Cymbidiums of high light intensity. It's surprising, really, how much light they can take if they have become acclimated to it gradually. There is a point of no return, of course, and plants can sunburn if you don't keep an eye on their reaction. The key here is to observe the new growths carefully. You would naturally assume that the young tender growths would be more susceptible to sunburn than the older, matured leaves. I wonder if this is correct. After the

recent change in location of the Orchid collection the light intensity was increased at least 50 per cent, and while I expected (and found) some sunburn on the old leaves, the new growths are a beautiful, rich color, firm as anyone could desire and pushing up far more rapidly than they have ever grown before. I feel sure that I won't have the number of spikes I would like since the move wasn't made till Fall. During the critical summer months the Cymbidiums were grown under light conditions which I well knew were not satisfactory.

Nevertheless, I am finding early and multiple spikes on plants where I had anticipated no bloom at all. Next year, with good, strong light during the whole growing season?? Ah!!! Next Year!

As I said before, growing plants are perverse things. Next year, with a growing season of adequate light, conscientious feeding every second week and all the water any Cymbidium could possibly ask for, the ungrateful brats will quite probably decide to take that long delayed sabbatical.

ROSES from page 24

and presuming that you read this article in December and have done the preliminary home work, the hardest part is behind you. Now we dig out the holes previously prepared—and then form a cone of soil in the middle of the hole with the tip of the cone at soil level. Prune the tips of the roots off square and place the root system on top of the cone. Tamp the soil in around the roots. There should be enough soil left to form a basin around the plant. This we fill with water to settle the soil and remove all air pockets. Be sure that the bud union remains well above the ground level when the plant has settled.

If the rains come when the planting is done we can sit back and look at all the beautiful roses in the catalogs. Have you seen the lovely pictures of the 1967 All American Selections? **LUCKY LADY**, a lovely new light pink grandiflora. Two new floribundas, **ROMAN HOLIDAY**, a vigorous orange red and **GAY PRINCESS**, a blush pink. The hybrid-tea entry is called **BEWITCHED**, a medium pink with a promise of fragrance. Let's face it, we'll have to find room in the garden for this year's crop of beauties!

Iris

by Betty Springer Van Dusen

San Diego - Imperial Counties Iris Society

NOT MUCH work is needed in the iris garden during these winter months except weeding, as watering is likely to be supplied by rainfall. Spurias that were set out this fall will appreciate a feeding immediately, but the established clumps had best be fertilized in February. The tall bearded irises should be given a feeding of a low nitrogen fertilizer such as 5-10-10 in late January. A handful sprinkled in a circle around each clump, scratched into the soil and watered in well is generally recommended. Caution must be taken to keep this from touching the rhizomes or leaves of the plants.

Midwinter is the time when the iris enthusiast curls up by the fire with last year's colored catalogs and spends endless hours writing endless lists of varieties that he absolutely must have next planting season. Of course the very best way to select new varieties is to visit commercial or large private gardens at bloom time, but this fireside pastime does tide one over the winter quite nicely. Even the best of colored pictures can sometimes be misleading with exaggerations of color, but conversely many of them do not do a particular variety justice. The camera cannot capture the metallic glitter of silver or gold dust so commonly found in irises. Catalogs that tend to ballyhoo the irises must be carefully read to distinguish between the really important descriptive words such as flaring falls, rounded form, heavy substance, and vague or startling phrases that are employed to sell the reader on varieties that may be poor ones. This seems to occur mostly in the older varieties. It is also well to keep in mind that irises from Southern California growers will adapt more readily and generally be more satisfactory here than those from other parts of the country.

This is a good time also to plan out beds and places to plant irises, and to

try to determine just how much of the lawn to eliminate next summer to provide room for just a few more irises. While they are well suited to growing in the mixed flower border where their sword-like foliage and upright form make striking accents, there are some places to be found in every garden where they can be featured.

A particularly lovely situation is along both sides of a rail fence (either the rustic split-rail or the more formal white painted post and rail type), where they can be seen peeking through from either side. A variety of heights is effective here as well as carefully chosen companion plants. If you plan to feature irises against a solid fence, wall, or side of the house, consider the effectiveness of pastel varieties contrasted with a dark background, or the rich and brilliant shades against a white or light background. Unlike many other plants, irises can be attractive when grown in straight rows, provided that the row is tied in with something such as a walk, driveway, wall etc. A circle driveway bordered on one side or both sides with irises is a certain traffic stopper. You might consider trying a clump or so around a lamp post, mail box, or bird bath. The dwarf, intermediates and border irises are at home in the rock garden as well as being the perfect front row companions for the tall varieties. So do have some fun this winter planning bold or unusual settings for your irises while you're waiting and dreaming of "Iris Time."

ORGANIC GARDENER desires permanent position, with family quarters. Excellent background knowledge of soils and composting. Capable, dependable, highest character references. Address R.F.T., c/o California Garden Magazine.

Dahlia

by Larry Sisk

San Diego County Dahlia Society

WHETHER the gardener wants to grow vegetables, chrysanthemums, or dahlias, this is the time of year to do some thinking and planning about the source of plant growth.

How about the soil? Does it have the kind of tilth you like? Did the soil produce the plant growth you wanted? Were the flowers of the right color, bright and fresh, or the produce crisp and sweet with garden freshness?

If the answers are negative or wavering, perhaps it's a sign that something should be done to the soil.

Slow growth and off-color in gardens that have had adequate water and some fertilizer indicate a lack of one or more of the components required for good gardening soil.

The best way to find out is to have a soil test; the average gardener can do this with the simple kits available at neighborhood nurseries. Also helpful is a chapter or two in a gardening book, devoted to soil, its preparation and treatment, and the importance of pH.

The successful dahlia grower knows how to read, and does. He learns that dahlias grow best in a slightly acid soil, pH 6.5 to 7. If the soil is too acid, he can sweeten it with a touch of lime. If the soil is alkaline, and not so far that way that it can't be corrected, adding aluminum sulphate will help—lightly in sandy soil, and more heavily in proportion to the clay content.

A small content of nitrogen and ample supplies of phosphorus and potash in the soil are most desirable for dahlias. During the growing season, fertilizers of 4-10-10 or 2-10-12 proportions are best. The books that dahlia growers read also tell the gardener what the soil might need for other specialties.

Dahlias thrive best on a well-drained loam. If the garden doesn't drain, or if there are wet spots, conditions can be improved by starting now. The ultimate is to install tile pipe below the root level—18 to 20 inches or more deep. Breaking up the subsoil and using a liberal bottom layer of sandy gravel will help.

General improvement of the soil with liberal applications of humus, with periodic repeats of the applications, also will improve drainage, as well as to contribute to that highly desirable tilth.

How do you add humus? Spade in vegetable matter. The process can hardly be overdone. Compost is the best material. Or use dried grass clippings, leaves, tree bark, sawdust, peat moss, commercial humus—anything organic that will decay and be transformed into good old brown or black dirt.

If sawdust, bark and some other substances are used and prove slow to break down, the gardener might use a heavier application of nitrogen for growth balance during the spring and summer months.

The main idea is that now is the time to improve the soil. As soon as the old crop of dahlia roots has been dug and stored, the garden should be turned; plow or spade deeply, lifting the soil from 15 to 18 in. deep to get a complete turn-over. As the soil is turned, a generous layer of humus should be folded into the soil. Watering, if rain is insufficient, will speed the process of breaking down the humus.

Turning the soil deeply at least three times is recommended, with each turning accompanied by additional humus.

A process called trenching makes the turning more effective. This means that the soil is removed from one end of the bed and the bed turned to make room for the removed soil at the other end.

During the turning process, or at least a month before next season's planting time, fumigation might be tried if the gardener feels that the health of his soil might be improved, or if he sees signs of nematodes or fungicidal rot on the current crop of roots.

There are several kinds of fumigants. The neighborhood nurseryman can tell how they might be applied. Vapam, Vorlex, and other brands have been used effectively by Southern California dahlia growers. In addition to cleaning up the soil, the fumigants will sterilize grass and weed seed. They might also harm shrubs and other plants still in the ground, so if fumigation is planned, be sure to read the directions and warnings on the label.

Every ounce of labor and attention put into the soil now will pay off with better results when the plants start to grow again—whether they are vegetables, chrysanthemums or dahlias.

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Fuchsias

by Morrison W. Doty

San Diego Fuchsia Society

EVEN "If Winter Comes" in San Diego (though hard to imagine on balmy year-end days) there is much to occupy and interest the Fuchsia grower. Cleaning up, trimming stragglers, composting, preparing new soil to ripen, mulching plants growing in cold places, moving late-blooming container plants to warmer, protected nooks, and doing some garden planning and shopping for new plants, and ideas for a better garden in the Spring, for instance.

Being deciduous shrubs, winter is the normal time for fuchsias to lose their leaves, and rest, needing only a safe minimum of water and food for dormancy. In Southern California, where many varieties of plant life confusedly bloom out of their regular seasons, Fuchsias may be found blooming about every month in the year. Many growers take advantage of this; selecting young vigorous plants of certain favorite varieties to water and feed for late bloom. Even up into Christmas holidays this is often easy to do. But it is not recommended for all plants, since fuchsias need a real rest period. While the sap is down, at this time of year, some growers we know claim that it is safe to cut back severely to the third node of new growth all plants that have become straggly or out of shape, provided the plant is *not* being fed or watered enough to cause tender new growth before all danger of killing frost is past. Although a sub-tropical plant, fuchsias on this coast can stand temperatures even slightly below 25 degrees pretty well. Fuchsias can even survive very light freezes if not watered or fed too soon afterward. Nevertheless, don't neglect every effort to protect them from winter cold and wind. Move baskets to warmer nooks, and mulch plants in the ground.

Large plants may be moved at this time more safely by cutting down around them with a sharp spade, some time before moving. Cut the roots about a foot or so out from the plant, then allow 2 or 3 weeks for it to heal and start little new feeder roots. This helps large plants to survive removal better. In cultivating, don't dig too closely around Fuchsias because of shallow top roots.

This is a good time to start a compost bin to add more of the important organic life that our soil needs. Utilize green material waste from the garden and table, combined with some manure and leaf mold and keep moist and closed up. An old refrigerator case or other appliance box may be converted for such a bin. Prepared soil mixes and composts should be well covered to be protected from the weather until ready for use. Some growers use 2 or 3 bins for a continuous mixing and curing process from the green compost to richly ripened final soil mixture.

Winter is also a good time to plan any changes in garden design, and different arrangements of what you already have, or intend getting; to use new ideas brought from other gardens or observation. The interesting, almost endless variety of effects in color and form possible in a progressive garden, can truly become the delight of your life.

Your selection of new plants is very important, and good Fuchsia nurseries will be glad to help with advice. If your location is unusually hot or cold, accept their proven varieties and their advice in caring for them, especially if you are new to Fuchsia growing in this area. It is better to replace disappointing varieties with well recommended new varieties. There are now well over 3000 name varieties, and more being hybridized every year. We even hear of fashions in Fuchsias now, with an apparent demand for light colors, white sepals, and a new fancy for miniatures. Instead of *EL MATADOR* or *TEXAS LONGHORN*, whose blooms may reach toward 6-inch diameters, they may now ask for miniatures like colorful little *TROPIC SUNSET* or *BLUETTE*. There are color novelties in Fuchsias also worth adding to your garden interest, such as red-leaved *Triphylla* hybrids, or *VANITY FAIR* and *SUN RAY* with variegated colored foliage.

San Diego is fortunate in having excellent Fuchsia nurseries and wholesalers to browse in pursuit of our hobby. Plants make a thoughtful Christmas gift. Christmas is the Western World giving Festival of Faith, and growers of plants have lived by Faith in God since the beginning of Time.

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Floral Committee

San Diego 200th Anniversary, Inc.



by Joan Betts and Alice Zukor

MANY exciting plans and events are being formulated for our city's 200th Anniversary Celebration in 1969. Each day all of us are becoming more aware of the magnitude of this birthday celebration. This is our opportunity to pay tribute to our beautiful city. Let all of us, from school children to senior citizens, give our time and talents to help meet this impressive challenge.

It is evident that the many committees working on the 200th Anniversary are rapidly progressing and coordinating their plans with the overall year-long celebration. Some of these committees are: Arts and Music, Historical, Community Relations, Religious and our Floral Committee. Every effort is being made to avoid conflict of events in all of the different fields. It is of prime importance that the floral program tie in with many other scheduled events.

For the past several years visitors and San Diegans have been privileged to attend established, well executed flower shows presented by members of our local organized garden societies: The San Diego Camellia Society, San Diego County Orchid Society, San Diego Rose Society, San Diego Imperial Counties Iris Society and the San Diego County Dahlia Society. We are aware of the past dates of these outstanding shows but we must be certain of firm dates for 1969 so they can be listed on the Master Calendar. The 200th Anniversary committee will assist each group in the promotion of each show as a part of the celebration program. Early cooperation in planning will pay off in 1969 so please help by establishing your 1969 Floral Show dates now. It is antici-

pated that each group will want to coordinate its plans and theme with the 200th Anniversary Celebration.

The Floral Committee is also most anxious to establish dates for additional floral events that will tie in with the overall floral program: such as the successful North County Bus Tours, a possible large Bonsai Show, Wildflower Show and a hoped-for International Flower Show. Please assist us with information concerning these important functions.

It is most rewarding to note that much enthusiasm has been shown for the floral program. We are grateful for your letters, your ideas and your help. The coverage through the news media is most certainly appreciated. Thanks to Mr. Arthur Otis for his column in the *San Diego Union*; Miss Ada Perry, also of the *San Diego Union*, for her talk on planting plans for 1969 given at the San Diego Floral Association meeting in October; and the space and extra news coverage we have received in this CALIFORNIA GARDEN magazine. We are all working as a team toward our floral goals in 1969 and we are trying to keep in close touch with all the garden groups, related organizations and interested horticultural-minded citizens.

"The Flower Basket of the Nation," is our Title. St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of plants, birds and animals, standing by an abundant flower basket is our Theme. The drawing was done by a well-known local artist, Richard Gabriel Chase. This identification for the 200th Anniversary Celebration has met with much enthusiasm and approval.

The FLORAL CALENDAR was adopted at a lively meeting on Novem-

ber 17th. This will be our guide for the overall floral program. We are attempting to lay a firm foundation NOW to insure the success of this project for a memorable year in San Diego history.

Please continue to write to us of your suggestions pertaining to our part in this celebration.

Joan Betts, *Chairman Floral Committee*
Alice Zukor, *Co-chairman*

San Diego 200th Anniversary, Inc.,
County Administration Center 8th Floor
1600 Pacific Hwy., San Diego, Ca. 92101

Dr. Samuel Ayres Will Speak Here In Jan.

Under the joint auspices of the San Diego Botanical Foundation, Inc., and the Floral Committee of San Diego 200th Anniversary, Inc., Dr. Samuel Ayres, Jr., of Los Angeles will be speaking on *Flowering Trees and Flowering Shrubs to Celebrate with Color*. Colored slides will be used to illustrate his talk. The meeting will be held in Recital Hall, Balboa Park, to accommodate the expected crowd. The date: *January 26, 1967, Thursday night*. Be sure to put a ring around the date on your calendar right now. A dinner will be held for Dr. and Mrs. Ayres, close to the Recital Hall, but final plans are not yet ready for announcement, so watch the papers for the latest information and get your reservations in early. Come and help us make it a gala affair!

Dr. Ayres read in CALIFORNIA GARDEN of the formation of the Floral Committee, San Diego 200th Anniversary, Inc., under Tom Ham, and he wrote a letter immediately to Mrs. Joan Betts, Chairman, in which he offered his congratulations and cooperation. He is watching the progress of our program here in San Diego with tremendous interest.

Los Angeles was fortunate in getting its plans under way a year earlier than we. Mr. Ed Ainsworth, a civic-minded citizen, called to the attention of Mrs. Valley Knudsen, the up-coming birthday and the need for a real celebration. So they all got busy and came up with a tremendous plan, their "Five-Year Plan to Celebrate with Color."

Now, enthusiasm and work on the part of every one of us will be needed to put us up in the forefront. After all, California began here, right where we live, and we should be the "firstest and the longest—and hardworkingest" to make this great Birthday Party a great international success. Let's show him, when he comes, that cooperation and working together is where we excel. We do, don't we?

SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

FLORAL BUILDING, BALBOA PARK

(Under the sponsorship of
The Park and Recreation Dept., City of San Diego)
Third Tuesday, Floral Building, 8 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Emmett W. Fowler Jr. 454-1795
1025 Havenhurst Dr., La Jolla 92037

FLORAL COMMITTEE, 200th ANNIVERSARY, Inc.
Bimonthly, Third Thursday, Floral Building, 7:30 p.m.
Joan Berth, Chairman Alice Zukor, Co-Chairman 291-1959
1600 Pacific Hwy. Rm. 801, S.D., Cal. 92101

SAN DIEGO BOTANICAL GARDEN FOUNDATION, Inc.

Second Thursday, Floral Building
P.O. Box 12162, S. D., Calif. 92112
Pres.: Virgil Schade 298-1949
1753 Myrtle

FLOWER ARRANGERS' GUILD OF SAN DIEGO

First Thursday, Floral Building, 7:30 p.m. 454-1519
Pres.: Mrs. Edwin Gould
7065 Neptune Pl., L.J., 92037

AFFILIATE MEMBERS 1966

CIVIC CENTER GARDEN CLUB

Meets every Thursday, 12m to 1 p.m.
Garden House, Grape and 101 Civic Center
Pres.: Mrs. Donald A. Innis 298-1690
1827 Putterbaugh, S.D. 92103
Pres.: James Sargach 274-2628
3366 Lloyd St., S.D. 92117

GENERAL DYNAMICS GARDEN CLUB

First Wednesday, Floral Building, 7:30 p.m. 456-4877
Pres.: Robert Bradshaw
9654 Candy Lane, La Mesa 92040
Rep. Dir.: J. E. Henderson 274-1754
3503 Yosemite, S.D. 92109

MEN'S GARDEN CLUB OF SAN DIEGO CO.

Fourth Monday, Floral Bldg., 7:30 p.m.
Pres. John G. Farleigh 282-9131
2217 Whitman St., S.D. 92103
Rep.: Dr. J. W. Troxell
4950 Canterbury Drive, S.D. 92116

ORGANIC GARDENING CLUB

Third Friday, Floral Building, 7:30 p.m. 277-6899
Pres.: Ferd I. Thebus
4511 Mt. Gayway Dr., S.D. 92117
Rep.: Mrs. Mary Panel 222-5031
4680 Del Monte Ave., S.D. 92107

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB

First Friday, Floral Building, 10 a.m. 223-9720
Pres.: Mrs. Philo Hardie
3756 Kingsley, S.D. 92106
Rep. Mrs. Louis J. Kulor 222-5480
2732 Azalea Dr., S.D. 92106

SAN DIEGO BONSAI SOCIETY, INC.

Second Sunday, Floral Bldg., 1:50 p.m.
Pres.: George Fujimoto 264-1477
1962 Euclid Ave., S.D. 92105

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCEULENT SOCIETY

First Saturday, Floral Building, 2 p.m. 223-2629
Pres.: Reuben V. Vaughn
1041 Le Roy St., S.D. 92106
Rep.: Jack Ward 402-5513
823 Halecrest St., Chula Vista 92010

SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY

Second Friday, Floral Building, 7:30 p.m. 444-5314
Pres.: Samuel E. Foster
202 Carter, El Cajon 92020
Rep.: Mrs. Lester Crowder 295-5871
3130 Second St., S.D. 92103

S.D. CHAPTER CALIF. ASS'N NURSERYMEN

Second and Fourth Thursday, 7:30 p.m. 273-4636
Pres.: Henry Boyd
4731 Conrad Ave., S.D. 92117
Rep.: John Basney 273-4636
4731 Conrad Ave., S.D. 92117

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY

Fourth Tuesday, Floral Building, 7:30 p.m. 264-1283
Pres.: Henry Boyd
6581 Broadway, S.D. 92114
Pres.: Mrs. R. M. Middleton 295-3246
3944 Centre St., S.D. 92103

SO-IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY

Meets 3rd Sunday, Floral Bldg., 2:30 p.m. 422-5172
Pres.: Arthur B. Day
279 S St., Chula Vista 92010
Rep.: Arthur B. Day

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

First Tuesday, Floral Building, 8 p.m. 477-0570
Pres.: James C. Laughton
5937 Cumberland St., S.D. 92114
Rep.: Byron Greer 279-1191
5094 Mt. La Platta Dr., S.D. 92117

SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA SOCIETY

Second Monday, Floral Building, 8 p.m. 295-0963
Pres.: James Watson
3819 Third Ave., S.D. 92103
Rep.: Mrs. Eugene Cooper 295-7938
4444 Arista Dr., S.D. 92103

SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY

Third Monday, Floral Building, 8 p.m. 277-4872
Pres.: Mrs. James K. Buman
4651 Mt. Alifan Dr., S.D. 92111
Rep.: Mrs. Felix Hark 264-4440
5282 Imperial Ave., S.D. 92114

SOUTHWESTERN GROUP, JUDGES' COUNCIL

CALIFORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC.
First Wednesday, Floral Building, 10:30 a.m. 593-4320
Pres.: Mrs. Harry K. Ford
4851 Lorraine Dr., S.D. 92115
Rep.: Mrs. Roland S. Hoyt 296-2757
2271 Ft. Stockton Dr., S.D. 92103

OTHER GARDEN CLUBS

ALFRED D. ROBINSON BEGONIA SOCIETY

Third Friday, Homes of Members, 10 a.m. 224-1572
Pres.: Miss Myrtle Patterson
4310 Piedmont Dr., S.D. 92107

BERNARDO BEAUTIFUL & GARDEN CLUB

First Wednesday, 1:30 Seven Oaks Community Center, Bernardo Oaks Dr., Rancho Bernardo 748-1486
Pres.: Fred W. Walter
12048 Callado Dr., S.D. 92128

CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB

First Friday, VFW Hall, Carlsbad, 1:30 p.m.
Pres.: Mrs. Wanda Bond
VFW Hall, Pico & Oak St., Carlsbad 92008

CHULA VISTA FUCHSIA SOCIETY

Second Tuesday, Norman Park Recreation Center, 7:30 p.m. 420-3930
Pres.: Mrs. August H. Goerke
481 Flower, Chula Vista 92110

CHULA VISTA GARDEN CLUB

Meets 3rd Wednesday 1:00 p.m.
C.V. Woman's Club Bldg., 357 G St., C.V. 422-0490
Pres.: Mrs. M. D. Holmer
68 E Sierra Way, C.V. 92010

CLAIREMONT GARDEN CLUB

Meets Third Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. 276-2520
Pres.: Mrs. Stanley Fletcher
3090 Chicago St., S.D. 92117

CORONADO FLORAL ASSOCIATION

Meets 1st Tuesday, Red Cross Bldg., 1113 Adella Lane 435-6454
Pres.: Capt. Richard W. Parker U.S.N. Retired
508 Glorietta Blvd., Coronado 92118

CROSS-TOWN GARDEN CLUB

Third Monday, Barbour Hall, University & Pershing, 8 p.m. 284-2317
Pres.: Charles Williams
4240 46th, S.D. 92115

CROWN GARDEN CLUB OF CORONADO

Fourth Tuesday, Red Cross Bldg., 1113 Adella Lane, 9:30 a.m. 435-8268
Pres.: Mrs. Robert H. Keen
1111 Coronado, Coronado 92118

DELACADIA GARDEN CLUB

First Wednesday, Encinitas Union Elementary School, 7:30 p.m. 753-5409
Pres.: J. F. Nichols
159 Diana, Leucadia 92046

DOS VALLES GARDEN CLUB (PAUMA VLY.)

Meets 2nd Tuesday, Pauma Valley Center 1:30 p.m. 742-3325
Pres.: Mrs. William C. Myers
Country Club Dr., Pauma Valley 92051

ESCONDIDO GARDEN CLUB

3rd Friday, Veterans Memorial Hall 1:00 p.m. 745-9557
Pres.: Victor F. Forrester
Reidy Canyon Rd., Escondido 92025

FALLBROOK GARDEN CLUB

Last Thursday, Fallbrook Woman's Clubhouse, 1:30 p.m. 728-7044
Pres.: Mrs. Roman E. Shore
1211 Pepper Tree Lane, Fallbrook 92028

GROSSMONT GARDEN CLUB

Second Monday, La Mesa Chamber of Commerce Bldg., University Ave., La Mesa 92041 466-6943
Pres.: Mrs. Raymond Moore
4679 Harrison Ave., La Mesa 92041

IMPERIAL BEACH GARDEN CLUB

3rd Tuesday, Imperial Beach Civic Center, 1:30 p.m. 424-7235
Pres.: Mrs. Alice Loomis
874 Fourth, Imperial Beach 92032

LAKEVIEW GARDEN CLUB

2nd Monday, Lakeside Farm School, 7:30 p.m. 448-4199
Pres.: Mrs. Louis Griffin
12024 Lakeside Ave., Lakeside 92040

LA MESA GARDEN CLUB

(Garden Sec. Women's Club)
3rd Thursday, La Mesa Women's Club, 1:00 p.m. 448-6396
Pres.: Mrs. Wells Harman
11928 Orchard Road, Lakeside 92040

LEMON GROVE WOMAN'S CLUB

(Garden Section)
First Tuesday, Lemon Grove Woman's Club House, 1 p.m. 456-8300
Pres.: Mrs. James H. Sharp
8124 Alton Dr., Lemon Grove 92045

MISSION GARDEN CLUB

Meets First Monday, 8 p.m.
Barbour Hall, Pershing and University
Pres.: Gladys L. Gill 283-2898
4651 Mt. St., S.D. 92116
Rep.: Julia Bohle 282-7422
3145 No. Mt. View Dr., S.D. 92116

NATIONAL CITY GARDEN CLUB

Third Wednesday, National City Community Bldg., 7:30 p.m. 477-9416
Pres.: Arliss A. Agnew
420 L St., National City 92050

NORTH COUNTY SHADE PLANT CLUB

Second Sat., 1:00 p.m. Seacoast Hall, Encinitas 755-9219
Pres.: H. Marshall Chadwell
R. 1 Box M32, Del Mar 92014

O. C. IT GROW GARDEN CLUB

Second Wednesday, S. Oceanic School Auditorium, 7:30 p.m. 729-1785
Pres.: Earl C. McPherson
2476 Pico Dr., Carlsbad, Calif. 92008

PACIFIC BEACH GARDEN CLUB

Meets second Monday, 7:30 p.m. Community Club House, Gresham and Diamond Sts., Pacific Beach 283-3542
Pres.: Mrs. Charles E. Domler
5158 Hastings Rd., S.D. 92116

PALOMAR CACTUS & SUCCEULENT SOCIETY

Third Saturday, 1 p.m., Palomar College Foreign Language Building, Room F22
Pres.: Mrs. Kathleen McClelland 755-4047
P.O. Box 111, Del Mar 92014

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

2nd Wednesday, 9:30 a.m., Community Church 748-3708
Pres.: Mrs. Leo Ostrom
15222 Hilltop Circle, Poway 92064

RANCHO SANTE FE GARDEN CLUB

Second Tuesday—Club House, 2:00 p.m. 756-1106
Pres.: Mrs. John E. Grimm
P.O. Box 241, Rancho Santa Fe 92067

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB

Fourth Tuesday, San Carlos Club, 6:55 Golfcrest Drive 463-4349
Pres.: Mrs. Glenn F. Bliss
6275 Cowles Mountain, San Diego 92119

SAN DIEGO BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

Fourth Monday, Barbour Hall - Univ & Pershing, 8 p.m. 295-7938
Pres.: Mrs. Eugene Cooper
4444 Arista Dr., S.D. 92103

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY

Second Monday, 7:30 p.m. Meets at home of president 469-3038
Pres.: Mrs. Cleoves Hardin
9295 Harness Rd., Spring Valley 92077

SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB

Third Wednesday, Seacoast Savings Building, Encinitas, 10 a.m. 755-4772
Pres.: Mrs. Waldo Vogt
773 Barbard Ave., Solana Beach 92075

SAN MIGUEL BRANCH AMERICAN BEGONIA SOCIETY

First Wed., Youth Center, Lemon Grove 466-0138
Pres.: Ferris Jones
4610 8th St., S.D.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB

Second Monday, Ramona Women's Club House, 5th and Main, 9:30 a.m. 789-1157
Pres.: Mrs. W. F. Squibb
161 Steffy Lane, Ramona 92065

SWEETWATER JUNIOR GARDEN CLUB

First Monday, 7:30 p.m. Meets at home of Temp. President 467-3038
Temp. Pres.: Cleoves Hardin
9195 Harness Rd. Spring Valley 92077

VALLE GARDEN CLUB, POWAY

Meets 3rd Thursday, 10 a.m. Homes of members 465-0910
Pres.: Mrs. Brown Thompson II
16728 Espola Rd., Poway 92064

VISTA GARDEN CLUB

First Friday, Vista Rec. Center 1:00 p.m. 465-0910
Pres.: Mrs. Henry C. Shultz
1847 Alta Vista Dr., Vista 92083

VISTA MESA GARDEN CLUB

Second Tuesday, 2 p.m., Family Association Center 465-0910
Pres.: Mrs. Clara Haskins
2352 El Prado, Lemon Grove 92045

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